

FEB 24 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Confirmation No. 9676

Mieko SAKAI et al.

Docket No. 2001-0489A

Serial No. 09/830,060

Group Art Unit 1714

Filed July 23, 2001

Examiner K. Wyrozebski Lee

HIGH-HARDNESS, SOFT
COMPOSITE MATERIAL

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of October 23, 2002, the time for responding thereto being extended for one month in accordance with a Petition for Extension of Time submitted herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claim 5 presently in the application without prejudice.

Kindly amend claims 1, 4, 6-9, 17 and 18 as follows:

1. (Amended) A high hardness, soft composite material which consists of an organic/inorganic composite material having at least 80% by weight of inorganic components including an aggregate component, and 20% by weight or less of organic components, and which has a surface Vickers hardness, measured according to JIS Z 2244, of at least 400 and a radius of curvature, at which the material is bendable without being broken, of at least R25 mm based on a platy body having a 3 to 15 mm thickness.